tries except Pakistan. Trade preferences exchanged with Nepal and Bhutan under special arrangements whereas trade with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives is conducted on MFN basis. Trade between India and Pakistan is taking place in accordance with the Import-Export Policy of the two countries. Pakistan is following a restrictive Trade Policy regarding imports from India whereas India is allowing imports from Pakistan on MFN basis.

(b) and (c) The SAARC Member countries have been meeting periodically to discuss possibilities of strengthening Inter-State Trade relations. An agreement has been signed at the Dhaka Summit on 11th April, 1993 under which it has been agreed in principle, that steps will be taken by the Member States to conduct trade among themselves on the basis of Preferential Trading Arrangement.

Identification of Land For Shrimp and Fish Culture

2130. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether M. P. E. D. A. has identified large area of land in Andhra Pradesh which is suitable for shrimp and fish culture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) According to MPEDA about 1.5 lakh hectares of brackishwater area is estimated to be suitable for acquaculture in Andhra Pradesh.

Contribution of Andhra Pradesh Towards Export of Marine Products

2131. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh contributes overwhelmingly towards marine products exports, including marine catch and aquaculture products;

(b) the details of the contribution of Andhra Pradesh towards exports in this sector;

(c) whether it would be more rational to shift the headquarter of MPEDA to some suitable location in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) the steps being taken in this regard; and

(e) the number of employees engaged in Cochin office of MPEDA presently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Export details are not compiled State-wise. However, the details of units in Andhra Pradesh are being collected from MPEDA and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No Sir. MPEDA with its Headquarters at Cochin is functioning satisfactorily. MPEDA's regional and sub-regional offices located in different coastal States are providing the developmental services and assistance to entrepreneurs of that region.

(d) Does not arise;

(e) MPEDA Headquarters at Cochin employs 192 persons.

Removal of Difficulties Faced by Exporters

2132. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to take steps to remove all difficulties faced by exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when exporters would be made free from all impediments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Government have taken several steps to remove the difficulties faced by exporters which include replacement of dual exchange rate system with a unified market determined exchange rate, revision of Export-Import Policy for 1992-97 giving particular attention to simplification and streamlining of policy and procedures, substantial reduction in import licensing and other discretionary controls, reduction of peak import tariff levels from 150% to 85%, reduction in the interest rate on rupee export credit, giving direc

tions to banks to increase availability of credit to the export sector strengthening infrastructural facilities through greater involvement of State Governments, and identifying 34 extreme Focus Products with a view to giving a special thrust by removing difficulties faced by exporters in respect of these commodities. Besides, an Exporters' Grievance Cell has recently been set up to facilitate action on problems being faced by exporters.

(c) Review of the impediments being faced by exporters is a continuous process and steps are taken whenever necessary to remove the problems in consultation with trade and industry.

Development of Aquaculture in A. P.

2133. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPEDA has identified large tracts of land suitable for aquaculture in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that many small and marginal farmers are being eased out of their small holdings in Andhra Pradesh for the benefit of large firms;

(c) whether many small farmers were coerced to sell their land at throw away prices for the benefit of large units;

(d) whether the MPEDA has played any role in encouraging displacement of small land owners; and

(e) whether any alternative employment opportunities have been made available for the displaced people by MPEDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) According to MPEDA about 1.5 lakh ha. of brackishwater area is estimated to be suitable for acquaculture in Andra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Boosting Shrimp Production

2134. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Economic Times dated 14-7-93 captioned "Plans introduced to boost shrimp farming";

(b) what are the various commercial units who have obtained cash subsidy for shrimp farming during 1991-92 and 1992-93, State-wise break up;

(c) whether MPEDA's major area of activity is aquaculture; and

(d) what steps are proposed to ensure that buyer's cartels do not exploit small entrepreneurs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Government is aware of the news item.

(b) The information is being collected.

(c) Development of aquaculture is one of the major activities of MPEDA for augmenting the export production.

(d) Government is not aware of the existence of any buyers cartels in the marine products sector in India.

Crises Suffered by F. C. V. Tobacco Growers

2135. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that F. C. V. Tobacco growers suffered a crisis this year;

(b) whether domestic manufacturers helped growers to get more prices, this year, if so, what are the average prices paid by them to the growers during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the major cigarette manufacturers in India purchased most of their requirements directly instead of through their regular suppliers; and

(d) if so, the particulars of purchases directly and through their suppliers and the average price paid, region-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Because of the